Increase in number of malnourished children

2069. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of malnourished children have increased in the country during the last two years;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
 - (c) what remedial measures are adopted to fight it?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) As per the report of NFHS-4 conducted in 2015-16, 35.7% children under 5 years of age are underweight and 38.4% are stunted indicating a reduction from the NFHS-3 conducted in 2005-06, which reported 42.5% children under 5 years of age as underweight and 48% stunted. Further, as per the report of Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) (2016-18), prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among children is 34.7%, 17% and 33.4% respectively, which indicates further reduction when compared to the levels reported by NFHS-4.

^{*}Top up provided by State Government to Angawaddi workers

(c) The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. This Ministry is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Anganwadi Services and Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

Government has set up POSHAN Abhiyaan on 18.12.2017 for a three year time-frame commencing from 2017-18. The goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time-bound manner during the three years with fixed targets as under:—

Sl. No.	Objective	Target
1.	Prevent and reduce Stunting in children (0-6 years).	By 6% @ 2% p.a.
2.	Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years).	By 6% @ 2% p.a.
3.	Reduce the prevalence of anaemia among young children (6-59 months).	By 9% @ 3% p.a.
4.	Reduce the prevalence of anaemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years.	By 9% @ 3% p.a.
5.	Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW).	By 6% @ 2% p.a.

The Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition in the country in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The Abhiyaan has mechanisms for timely service delivery and a robust monitoring as well as intervention infrastructure. The major activities undertaken under this Abhiyaan are ensuring convergence with various other programmes; Information Technology enabled Common Application Software for strengthening service delivery and interventions; Community Mobilisation and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan- to educate the people on nutritional aspects; Capacity Building of Frontline Functionaries, incentivising States/ UTs for achieving goals etc.

Further steps taken under the National Health Mission (NHM), a flagship programme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to address malnutrition *inter alia* include promotion of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, Anaemia Mukt Bharat, Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, de-worming, promotion of iodized salt, Vitamin-A supplementation, Mission Indradhanush to ensure high coverage of vaccination in children, conducting intensified diarrhoea control fortnights to control childhood diarrhoea, management of sick severely malnourished children at Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers, monthly Village Health and Nutrition Days, Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Young Child Care (HBYC) programmes, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, etc.

Shortage of Working Women Hostel

2070. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a shortage of Working Women Hostel across the country including the State of Tamil Nadu, due to which girls/women find it very difficult to obtain safe accommodation and putting their life and modesty to risk;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to set up/establish adequate number of Working Women Hostel across the country including the State of Tamil Nadu; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) No State Government/UT Administration has reported shortage of Working Women Hostels except the States of Assam, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Punjab.

(c) and (d) Setting up of new Working Women Hostels is a continuous process. Government sanctions new hostels on receipt of proposals as per scheme guidelines along with the recommendations from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

One Stop Centres in Gujarat

- \dagger 2071. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the district-wise number of 'One Stop Centres' currently functioning in Gujarat along with districts which have not been covered so far by above mentioned centres;

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.